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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

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PEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
Numbering Resource Optimization) CC Docket No. 99-200

PETITION FOR WAIVER OF THE UNITED STATES TELECOM ASSOCIATION

The United States Telecom Association (USTA), on behalf of its members, pursuant to Section 1.3 of the Commission's rules, hereby requests that the Commission waive the mandatory reporting requirements set forth in Section 52.15(f) of the rules for a period of 90 days. Thereupon, individual carriers that are unable to comply with the filing requirements could seek further relief individually from the Commission. The mandatory reporting requirements were adopted in the Numbering Resource Optimization Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the above-captioned proceeding (Order).

Newly adopted Section 52.15(f) requires all telecommunications carriers that receive numbering resources to report utilization and forecast data semi-annually,

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¹ The United States Telecom Association, formerly the United States Telephone Association, is the nation's oldest trade organization for the local exchange carrier industry. USTA represents more than 1200 telecommunications companies worldwide that provide a full array of voice, data and video services over wireline and wireless networks. USTA members support the concept of universal service and are leaders in the deployment of advanced telecommunications capabilities to American and international markets.

² 47 C.F.R. § 1.3.

³ 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(f).

⁴ FCC 00-104, released March 31, 2000.

commencing on August 1, 2000. The utilization data is to be based on new number use categories established recently in the Order adopted in CC Docket No. 99-200. The forecast data in areas where thousand block pooling is implemented is to be reported at the thousand block level per rate center for carriers required to participate in pooling and per NXX level per rate center for carriers not required to participate in pooling. Forecast data in areas where thousand block pooling has not been implemented is to be reported at the NXX level per NPA. These new requirements mean that reporting carriers must make major adjustments in their internal data collection and reporting systems in order to meet the new specifications. Also, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), the designated recipient of the data, must develop the new FCC Form 502, the Numbering Resource Utilization/Forecast (NRUF) Report, make reporting options available to carriers and clarify any questions concerning its requirements and format, and devise a system to collect and analyze the data received. It is USTA's understanding that NeuStar, the current NANPA, only released the specification for the Electronic File Transfer (EFT) Format file on Friday, July 21, 2000. Many larger companies must report their data using this capability.

These factors create a situation that makes it impossible for many of USTA's members to comply with the August 1, 2000 reporting requirement. The Association's Numbering Subcommittee, representative of large, mid-size and small member companies, has determined that relief is necessary. Several individual USTA members have sought waiver or extension of the filing requirements and have fully justified their requests.⁵ Such situations exist with many of USTA's members not addressed in the

⁵ BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. Emergency Petition for Partial Waiver and Extension of Time filed July 24, 2000 (BellSouth Petition); Petition for Waiver and Extension of Time filed by

current waiver requests on the record in this proceeding. In addition, other parties representing carriers subject to the reporting obligations have sought similarly justified relief.⁶ These requests together substantiate the need for Commission action to extend the August 1, 2000 filing deadline.

In seeking relief, USTA recognizes that individual carriers have their own internal systems for tracking number utilization and forecasting. This means that many carriers will not be able to comply with the requirements for different lengths of time, others will not be able to comply with some of the requirements immediately but will be able to comply with others, and still other carriers may be able to comply with most of the requirements on a timely basis. Because of this situation, USTA believes that the public interest would be served by a waiver of Section 52.15(f) for a period of 90 days.

USTA believes that the 90 day period requested herein would permit its members to fully review their internal system requirements and capabilities, and either complete the reporting sequence or develop a clear assessment of when they can comply. We must also caution that depending on individual carriers' system circumstances, it is possible

Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company on July 20, 2000 (Cincinnati Bell Petition); Qwest Corporation Request for Expedited Deferral of Effective Date or, Alternatively, a Waiver or Stay of Portions of Soon-to-be Effective Rule 47 C.F.R. Section 52.15(f) filed on July 10, 2000 (Qwest Petition); and Request for Extension of Time filed by Puerto Rico Telephone Company, Inc. and Celulares Telefónica, Inc. (PRTC Petition).

⁶ Petition for Extension of Time filed jointly by the Rural Cellular Association (RCA), the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) and the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA) on July 11, 2000 (RCA/OPASTC/NTCA Petition); Motion for Extension of Time filed jointly by the Association for Local Telecommunications Services (ALTS), Competitive Telecommunications Association (CompTel) and Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA) on July 14, 2000; Petition for Temporary Waiver of 47 C.F.R. §§ 52.15(f)(6)(i) and 52.15(j) filed by VoiceStream Wireless Corporation on July 20, 2000 (VoiceStream Petition); and Petition for Temporary Waiver of 47 C.F.R. §§ 52.15(f)(6)(i) filed by Intermedia Communications Inc. (Intermedia Petition).

that some of the granularity required for the period ending June 30, 2000 may not be recoverable for some carriers.

Section 1.3 of the Commission's rules provides that the Commission may waive provisions of its rules "for good cause shown...." According to Commission decisions on this matter, "[g]ood cause requires the showing of two elements: (1) that special circumstances warrant a deviation from the rules, and (2) that such a deviation would serve the public interest."

The situation facing many USTA members justifies a waiver under the above standard. The unique circumstances of these carriers with their internal systems will make adherence to the initial August 1, 2000 reporting requirement inconsistent with the public interest. As more fully described by individual carriers, their existing systems are not designed to accommodate the kind of data collection and reporting required by the newly-adopted rule. The required changes are significant and will require time to implement. It is furthermore documented that the carriers have been working diligently to upgrade their systems to comply with the new rules ever since they were released. However, until these systems are fully operational, many carriers will have to engage in manual processes that would be exceedingly time-consuming and still would not result in compliant data.

⁷ Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990); WAIT Radio v. FCC, 418 F.2d 1153, 1157 (D.C. Cir. 1969), cert. denied, 409 U.S. 1027 (1972).

⁸ BellSouth Petition at 2-4; Cincinnati Bell Petition at 3; Qwest Petition at 4-6; Prtc Petition at 2-3; ALTS/CompTel/PCIA Petition at 5-6; VoiceStream Petition at 2, 5-6; and Intermedia Petition at 3-4.

⁹ BellSouth Petition at 3-4; Cincinnati Bell Petition at 3; Qwest Petition at 5; PRTC Petition at 2-3; VoiceStream Petition at 5-6; and Intermedia Petition at 3-4.

The public interest would be served by a temporary waiver. A short delay will not disrupt NANPA's reporting process. In fact, NANPA will not be ready to process the data it collects by August 1. Additional time will certainly yield more useful data and will give NANPA the requisite time to develop the system it needs to effectively and efficiently process the carriers' data. This means that the result will be a more accurate and complete assessment of the utilization of numbering resources in the NANP. Such a result will serve the public interest by achieving the purpose of adopting and implementing the reporting requirements, which is to allow the Commission "to monitor more closely the way numbering resources are used within the NANP."

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, USTA urges the Commission to grant a waiver of its number reporting requirements in Section 52.15(f) of the rules and extend the initial

¹⁰ Order at ¶ 5.

filing deadline from August 1, 2000 to November 1, 2000 for carriers to submit utilization and forecast data for the period ending June 30, 2000.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Meena Joshi, do certify that on July 27, 2000, Petition Waiver Of The United States Telecom Association was either hand-delivered, or deposited in the U.S. Mail, first-class, postage prepaid to the the attached service list

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